

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated May 2, 2006, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims as presented are in condition for allowance.

Claims 1 and 11-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Weatherly. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites "the phase delay control trace configured to shift the phase of crosstalk relative to another trace reactively coupled to the phase delay control trace." This feature is shown, for example, in Applicants' Figure 7 in which phase delay control trace 61 alters phase from through hole 41 to hole 51, relative to the trace connecting hole 47 and hole 57. Holes 51 and 57 are reactively coupled through dead end traces.

Weatherly fails to teach this feature. In applying Weatherly, the Examiner notes that Weatherly teaches two redundant traces 5 and 6 in Figure 3-1. Weatherly, however, does not teach or suggest that these traces are configured to shift the phase of compensating crosstalk relative to another trace reactively coupled to the phase delay control trace. Traces 5 and 6 are configured to overlap loop 28 on the opposite side of the printed circuit board to capacitively couple traces (column 5, lines 17-29). Loop 28, however, is configured in the same shape and size as traces 5 and 6, and thus will provide the same amount of phase shift. Thus, there is no relative shift of crosstalk between these signal paths.

For at least the above reasons, claim 1 is patentable over Weatherly. Claims 11-13 variously depend from claim 1 and are patentable over Weatherly for at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 1. Claim 14 recites similar features as claim 1 and is patentable over Weatherly at least the reasons advanced with reference to claim 1.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Applicants submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

If there are any charges with respect to this response or otherwise, please charge them to Deposit Account 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

David A. Fox
Registration No. 38,807
CANTOR COLBURN LLP
55 Griffin Road South
Bloomfield, CT 06002
Telephone (860) 286-2929
Facsimile (860) 286-0115
Customer No. 23413

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